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Richard Wilbur Is Appointed New Poet Laureate

Richard Wilbur, a versatile man of letters whose poetry has won virtually every honor, has been named the second Poet Laureate of the United States. He will succeed Robert Penn Warren. The appointment, effective in September, was made by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin, who said of Mr. Wilbur: "We are fortunate that there is a Richard Wilbur to serve as successor to Robert Penn Warren as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry in the Library of Congress. He is a poet for us all, whose elegant words brim with wit and paradox. He is also a poet's poet, at home in the long tradition and the traveled ways of the great poets of our language. And he is a cosmopolitan citizen of the world of letters, whose essays and translations help us to the poets of other languages. His poems are among the best our country has to offer."

The position which Richard Wilbur will occupy was created 50 years ago as the Consultantship in Poetry in the Library of Congress.

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(In late March the Library celebrated that anniversary with a reunion of its former Consultants in Poetry, and three nights of public readings.) The position, established by a private endowment, was changed by a provision of Public Law 99–194, enacted in December 1985, which recognized that the Library position was equivalent to that of poet laureate of the United States. The provision, sponsored by Senator Spark M. Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), redesignated the Library's position as "Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry."

Born in 1921 and a native of New York City, Richard Wilbur grew up in New Jersey and was educated at Amherst College (A.B. 1942) and Harvard University (A.M. 1947). In between were three years of active duty in World War II, in which he served with the 36th Infantry at Cassino and Anzio in Italy, in the southern invasion of France, and along the Siegfried Line in Germany.

His first book of poetry, *The Beautiful Changes,* was published in 1947. For the next four decades he combined a varied literary output with university teaching at Harvard University, Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, and Smith College, from which he retired last year. Mr. Wilbur is married and is the father of four children.

His third book of poetry, *Things of This World* (1956), won both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. In 1971 he received the Bollingen Prize for Poetry. He has held Guggenheim and Ford Foundation fellowships and the Prix de Rome of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, of which he was president 1974–76. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Academy of American Poets, of which he is a chancellor.

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Bruce Tapper, Editor

Richard Wilbur has been almost equally well known as a critic and translator. In 1952–53 he translated Molière's *Le Misanthrope,* which was published in 1955 and produced at the Poets' Theatre in Cambridge, Mass., and off-Broadway. His translation of Molière's *Tartuffe* (1963), which received the Bollingen Translation Prize, was produced at Lincoln Center in 1965. Mr. Wilbur was also the lyricist for *Candide,* Leonard Bernstein's musical version of Voltaire's classic, for which Lillian Hellman wrote the book. Since the 1950s his published volumes of poetry have contained both original verse and translations.

Mr. Wilbur first read his poems at the Library of Congress in 1957. Two years later he lectured on "The House of Poe," an influential essay on an American writer with whom Mr. Wilbur has frequently concerned himself. (His edition of Poe's poems also appeared in 1959.) Richard Wilbur took a leading role in the National Poetry Festival at the Library in 1962. His most recent appearance at the Library was in 1983, in a program celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Academy of American Poets.

The second person to hold the laureateship, Richard Wilbur will be the 29th Consultant in Poetry, a position established by a fund donated by Archer M. Huntington in 1936. A list of former Consultants in Poetry follows:

Joseph Auslander	1937–41
Allen Tate	1943–44
Robert Penn Warren	1944–45
Louise Bogan	1945–46
Karl Shapiro	1946–47
Robert Lowell	1947–48
Leonie Adams	1948–49
Elizabeth Bishop	1949–50
Conrad Aiken	1950–52
William Carlos Willliams	(appointed in 1952 but did not serve)
Randall Jarrell	1956–58
Robert Frost	1958–59
Richard Eberhart	1959–61
Louis Untermeyer	1961–63
Howard Nemerov	1963–64
Reed Whittemore	1964–65
Stephen Spender	1965–66
James Dickey	1966–68
William Jay Smith	1968–70
William Stafford	1970–71
Josephine Jacobsen	1971–73
Daniel Hoffman	1973–74
Stanley Kunitz	1974–76
Robert Hayden	1976–78
William Meredith	1978–80
Maxine Kumin	1981–82
Anthony Hecht	1982–84
Robert Fitzgerald	1984–85 (appointed but did not serve because of illness)
Reed Whittemore (interim consultant)	1984–85
Gwendolyn Brooks	1985–86
Robert Penn Warren	1986–87

Report on the 52nd General Conference of The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Tokyo, Japan

"New Horizons of Librarianship Towards the 21st Century" was the theme of the 52nd General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), held in August 1986 in Tokyo, Japan. The campus of Aoyama Gakuin University was the principal site for the conference. Opening and plenary sessions were held at the National Theatre of Japan; an open forum and the closing ceremony took place in the Nippon Seinenkan Hall.

IFLA
52nd General Conference-Tokyo 1986
第52回IFLA東京大会1986
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
52nd General Conference, 24-29 August 1986, Tokyo, Japan.

The conference was jointly sponsored by IFLA Headquarters in The Hague and the Japan Organizing Committee in consultation with the Japanese National Committee for IFLA and the Japan Library Association. The conference was supported by Japan's Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Diet Library, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

The following reports were submitted by Library of Congress staff who attended. Among the contributors were: Henriette D. Avram, Peter H. Bridge, Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Sybille Jagusch, Joseph W. Price, Mary S. Price, Lucia J. Rather, Ivan Sipkov, Merrily A. Smith, Mary Jack Wintle, William J. Welsh, and Yoshiko Yoshimura.

Official Opening

At the convening of the conference on August 25 in the National Theatre of Japan, more than 1,800 delegates and exhibitors from 62 countries were treated to ancient Japanese classical music and dance *(gagaku)* performed by musicians and players of the Imperial Household, who are direct descendants of the ancient masters. *Gagaku,* whose use for sacred rites in shrines and temples flourished during the Japanese ancient times and middle ages among members of the Imperial family and nobility, is presently performed only on rare occasions.

The conference was officially opened by Tokutaro Takahashi, chair of the Executive Committee, Japan Organizing Committee, who extended a "heartfelt welcome" to the participants of the 52nd IFLA General Conference on behalf of the Japan Organizing Committee. These remarks were followed by greetings from Michio Nagai, chair of the Organizing Committee, who noted that this was the first time that the annual general conference of IFLA had been held in Japan. Japan was selected as the host country for the 1986 conference, Mr. Nagai observed, because it serves as "a place of encounter between the industrial nations of the north and the developing nations of the south. The chair concluded his remarks with his hope that the Tokyo Conference "will contribute to the improvement of the administration and services of the libraries of the world."

The Tokyo Conference was then honored by the presence of their Imperial Highnesses, the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan. In a brief address, His Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince greeted the conferees and expressed his hope that this conference would "prove to be an encouragement to Japanese librarians" as well as to improve the exchange between libraries from around the world so that "knowledge and information accumulated in individual libraries will transcend geographical areas and be shared by all humanity." The Crown Prince closed his gracious greetings "with prayers for the further advancement of the ties of librarianship and for the further deepening of the ties of friendship of all of you in this field through this international conference."

Congratulatory addresses were then extended to the conferees. Masayuki Fujio, Minister of Education, expressed respect for the contributions of IFLA to the international understanding and promotion of education, research, and other aspects of culture through exchanges of library materials and information. It is important, he noted, that the librarians of the world gather together and discuss various matters from a global viewpoint at a time when great advances in science and information technology have had a strong impact on library service and administration. Toshiki Kaifu, vice-president, Diet Members' League for the Book, an organization of volunteer members of both Houses of Parliament who promote reading and support libraries, emphasized the importance of close cooperation between the advanced and developing libraries of the world in order to utilize limited library resources and facilitate research. Thomas Keller, greeting the conferees on behalf of Unesco, underscored the great value that Unesco places on the tradition of

(Continued on p. 168)

cooperation that exists with IFLA, particularly at a time in history when meetings between nations take particular significance.

Special greetings were then extended to the conferees by Shunichi Suzuki, governor of Tokyo, who observed that it is the duty of librarians to enrich and enhance the functions of a library, "the treasure house of the wisdom and civilization of the human race, and hand it over to the future generations." To this end, the governor reported that the public librarians of the city of Tokyo are striving toward putting bibliographic information into databases and computerizing library operations in order to ultimately form a library information system network with other public and academic libraries.

In his presidential address, Hans-Peter Geh began by extending a cordial welcome to "all of you who have come here from north, south, east, and west." He observed that the 52nd General Conference was the second IFLA conference held in an Asian country within a short time, and that "this is a sign of the importance IFLA places on librarianship in this region."

The president discussed the "future-oriented" general theme of the conference, "New Horizons of Librarianship Towards the 21st Century," commenting on the far-reaching changes in the field of librarianship that will result from developments in electronic and optical means of processing and communicating data. "Through this process of development," the president observed, "libraries will expand accordingly from their present role as information collectors and providers of information to becoming producers of information and information processors."

Continuing, the president observed that these changes will make intensive international cooperation among libraries imperative, particularly with respect to standardization for the international exchange of data and the coordination of technical requirements. At the same time, the president urged conferees to pay special attention to the quality of the information, especially in the communication media field, now being acquired by libraries. "In spite of all activities, technical developments, and profuse changes," Dr. Geh concluded with respect to this theme, "the library should remain what it once was, the site of intensive, intellectual work, a haven for contemplation and meditation, which plays such an important role here in our host country."

The president reminded the conferees of IFLA's commitment to the countries of the Third World with respect to the battle against illiteracy, the development of publishing and library fields, and the basic maintenance of literature. "We have a very special responsibility, on one hand through active, professional support of the committed efforts of our colleagues in these countries, and on the other to offer material aid." Dr. Geh called the attention of all IFLA members to contributing their share to the Regional Development Fund to aid further work and development in the Third World, as well as to provide assistance to Third World members who wish to participate in general conferences.

The president thanked Unesco for supporting IFLA activities, its core programs of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), and its new program, Preservation and Conservation (PAC). The president spoke briefly about PAC, IFLA's newest core program, which was launched during the international "Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials," held April 7-10, 1986. He stated that PAC is concerned with the physical maintenance of the original; the protection of text through secondary media in the form of microforms, magnetic media, and digital videodisk; bibliographic control of the secondary media; the establishment of international standards; and the exertion of "influence on the paper industry with the goal of producing only acid-free paper for the production of books."

In closing remarks devoted to the international year of peace, Dr. Geh declared IFLA's 52nd General Conference open "with the hope that world peace will be possible for all times."

—Ralph E. Ehrenberg and Yoshiko Yoshimura

Plenary Session I

As moderator of the First Plenary Session on August 25, Henriette D. Avram, Library of Congress, welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to the Japanese Organizing Committee for the facilities and accommodations. In keeping with the conference theme of "New Horizons of Librarianship Towards the 21st Century," Mrs. Avram noted that the session papers would emphasize solving information needs and facing technical challenges to create greater access to information in the 21st century. She then introduced the first principal speaker, Hiroshi Inose, director general, National Center for Science Information System in Japan.

Mr. Inose stated that since the text of his paper had been distributed, he would not repeat information on that subject, but would discuss instead the impact of information technology in general and specifically on library services. (Note: the paper, "Science Information System—a Challenge Towards an Integrated Information Utility," describes the objectives, present status, and future development of the system, which consists of a number of Japanese university libraries, computer centers, and user terminals connected by way

of a nationwide digital network.)

In considering the first impact of information technology, the convergence of service modules, Mr. Inose observed that in an integrated digital world, the major objective is to take full advantage of technology. Researchers need an information utility that connects them to a large number of databases and allows them to communicate with each other. Research is being conducted that demonstrates the feasibility of such electronic libraries. Regulatory measures affecting the use of service modules require reorganization. For example, changes in copyright law are greatly needed to establish harmony between cooperation and competition. Also, as service becomes international, differences can create problems; therefore, standardization must be promoted. In addition, there are international implications that must be considered with information service modules: there is a need to view such modules through international perspectives and to assure the free flow of information.

The second impact of information technology which Mr. Inose discussed was the integration of socioeconomic activities. Information networks are of epochmaking importance to industry, commerce, and administration. With the expansion of travel, scientists have more contact with those in distant locations who have similar interests. While promoting these integrated activities and communities of interest, Mr. Inose warned that there are other aspects that must be assured: reliability of hardware and software; security measures to avoid leaks and losses; infringement protection of private properties and national security; and freedom of information.

Mr. Inose noted that as a final impact, information technology is creating changes in the industrial structure. Value-added products and productivity improvement are arguments used to justify more and better technology. The office environment may change as software is developed and produced in decentralized settings, e.g., at home. In addition, the displacement of ordinary office workers will be intensified in years to come. On the other hand, the information explosion is expanding job opportunities, which will require the retraining of current workers.

In conclusion, Mr. Inose noted that children today are growing up in an age of computer literacy. New forms, e.g., computer music, are attracting attention. The ultimate objective is the promotion of mutual understanding and preservation of culture.

The second speaker, Hedwig Anuar, director of the National Library of Singapore, addressed "The Library and Information Dimensions of the North-South Dialogue: Some Thoughts on the Threshold of the 21st Century." To establish a framework, Ms. Anuar reviewed the development of Asian libraries through four main phases: first, in ancient times there were royal and state archival collections of histories, genealogies, laws, and other government records, along with religious (Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim) libraries; during the second, feudal phase, private libraries were developed; the third or colonial phase saw a limited number of special libraries established in key ministries and research institutes, as well as at missionary schools and universities. What libraries in all three phases had in common was that they served a small and privileged ruling class, whether religious or secular, indigenous or expatriate. During the fourth, post-independence phase of library development, more libraries of every type were established than during the first three phases. This was particularly true for university and special libraries. National libraries emerged to collect and preserve the national literature. School and public libraries grew slowly.

The "fatal impact of colonialism" involved not only political and military conquest, but also cultural domination, stated Ms. Anuar. Learning to read and write in a colonial foreign language was a major obstacle in societies which depended on traditional oral, face-to-face communication and which viewed book reading with indifference or even antagonism. In spite of this, over the last 30 years many less developed countries have launched successful national literacy programs. In some cases this has been approached by transcribing oral folk materials into simple printed form, thus preserving the national heritage and promoting literacy. Prior to World War II, indigenous publishers were rare in less developed countries and most books, including textbooks, were imported from foreign countries. Textbook publishing, Ms. Anuar asserted, is essential to meet the need for a national orientation, and she outlined the assistance needed to develop indigenous publishing industries.

Ms. Anuar next considered the opportunities and threats presented by information technology. While much activity is taking place in less developed countries in areas such as satellite communications, online databases, machine translations, electronic mail, and aviation traffic control, the information industry itself is dominated by a few developed countries. This raises debate on major issues, such as allocation of the radio frequency spectrum. Disparities in wealth also emphasize the contrast between countries where highly sophisticated information technology flourishes and those where the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and health have yet to be met. Ms. Anuar advised librarians in developing countries to practise "the librarianship of poverty" and to be realistic in terms of their own national priorities and resources.

The third speaker was Yu Guangyuan, member of the Presidium of China Society of Library Science.

Mr. Yu, whose background is in physics, economics, library science, and philosophy, began with the caveat that although he was active in library administration in the 1940s and early 1950s, he has not been involved directly in library work since then; however, he expressed his enthusiasm for libraries. In choosing "The Library and the Times" as the subject of his speech, Mr. Yu was considering the evolution, development, and contribution of libraries within the course of history. Libraries change to meet new demands and to make use of the progress of the times. Possibilities for the 21st century are unlimited.

To discuss libraries, Mr. Yu stated, requires an investigation into the concept of "books" and the development of a definition that can stand without confusion. To begin with, a book is a material body which carries information and is preservable for long periods of time; it is not ephemeral as is an electromagnetic wave. Second, a book should possess the property of carrying densely packed information; this eliminates other information carriers such as buildings and distant stars from being considered "books." The third requisite for an information carrier to be called a book is that it is measured by its social function, that is, it exercises influence on society.

The library, Mr. Yu continued, is established on the basis of books possessing at least these three properties. Libraries' function in providing full use of books is effective because they contain a great variety and number of books and because of their active reader service system. A book is a product of its time and, as such, serves cultural and research needs. Books also function beyond their own time. Librarians, living in the present, have their own points of view; however, the library itself should assume basically an unbiased attitude toward the contents of different books. This does not limit the librarian in recommending what is beneficial and thus serving the positive needs of society.

Mr. Yu concluded with a few remarks on tentative plans of the Chinese library profession. The Chinese Library Society has compiled a monograph of scholarly articles on goals to accomplish by the year 2000. Among the suggestions are: developing international library cooperation and resource sharing; and lessening the discrepancy between China and developed countries in library education, automation, and nonprint materials. Mr. Yu sees IFLA as a force in piloting libraries into the 21st century.

—Mary Jack Wintle

Open Forum on IFLA Core Programmes and Unesco Matters

The open forum on August 29 began with the screening of a ten-minute slide-tape presentation about the work of IFLA, which was published by the Loughborough University of Technology, United Kingdom. Irving Pizer, chair of the Professional Board, presented an overview of IFLA's activities and professional programs. This was followed by a report from A. L. van Wesemael, secretary of the Professional Board, about funding for professional program projects.

Reports were given about the activities during the past year of each of the six IFLA core programs: Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), International MARC Program (IMP), Preservation and Conservation (PAC), Transborder Data Flow (TDF), and Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP). The reports were introduced by Adam Wysocki, programme development officer.

Ross Bourne, British Library, reported that UBC has issued two new publications. The first, *Serial Holdings Statements at the Summary Level*, draws together existing national and international standards on holdings statements and makes a number of recommendations. This publication is intended to serve as a working paper for development into an ISO standard. The second publication is *Recommended Standards for Cataloguing-in-Publication*, which was sponsored by IFLA's Division of Bibliographic Control and approved by the Section on Cataloguing.

IMP, established in 1983, functions from two locations: The British Library (IMP-BL) with P. R. Lewis as Director, and the Deutsche Bibliothek (IMP-DB) with D. Wolf as Director. The work of IMP complements that of the International MARC Network Advisory Committee, established in 1975 by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). Together these groups work to promote the use of UNIMARC. IMP has always worked closely with UBC; both are concerned with the creation and dissemination of records. For this reason, IMP and UBC will be combined into a single IFLA core program beginning in 1987.

UAP, as reported by its director, Maurice B. Line, British Library, is concerned with examining and improving the availability of published materials, particularly in developing countries. In addition to promoting the ideas of UAP in several seminars and meetings in the past year, the program has published a *Guide to the Organization of Meetings on UAP*, and has been involved in various research projects. The latter include an investigation of avenues for improving the availability of publications in Senegal, and a planned feasibility study of a document delivery system to support the Asian Scientific and Technical Information Network.

PAC, directed by Merrily A. Smith, Library of Congress, was officially launched at the "Conference on

the Preservation of Library Materials," held in Vienna, Austria, in April 1986, which was sponsored by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) in cooperation with IFLA and Unesco. During its first complete year of operation, the program's primary goals are to raise the general level of awareness about library preservation issues and activities, and to encourage the development in libraries of preservation policies and programs. The efforts of the international focal point for PAC, located at the Library of Congress, will be supported and expanded by the activities of regional centers whose role is to promote the program in each center's representative area. Two centers have been identified: one at the Bibliothèque Nationale, directed by Jean-Marie Arnoult, and one at the Deutsche Bücherei, directed by Wolfgang Wächter.

Cynthia Durance, National Library of Canada, reported on TDF, which is also a new core program. TDF is concerned with the flow of data across national boundaries—electronic data which concerns libraries and information centers, not proprietary, private, or classified data—and with the technology that supports such data flow. TDF seeks to build a program that can be realistically initiated and developed by IFLA and its members, and can support the other IFLA core programs by the provision of information and analysis of technological and policy options to further program goals. In addition to planning, a major activity of the TDF program during the past year was the initiation of an introductory survey of transborder data flow concerns within IFLA. The survey, to be completed in 1987, will reveal the most significant barriers to such data flow.

Unlike other IFLA core programs, which are subject-oriented, ALP is mission-oriented. Its primary goal—to improve librarianship in the Third World—is pursued through three basic stratagems: centralized accumulation and decentralized action, strengthening of regional cooperation, and assistance in training for libraries in the Third World on selected subjects.

The open forum ended with a presentation by Unesco staff which served to briefly summarize the history of Unesco, outline the goals and objectives of the organization, and describe the nature of the assistance that Unesco can offer to qualified countries and organizations.

—Merrily A. Smith

Conference of Directors of National Libraries

Under the chairmanship of William J. Welsh, The Deputy Librarian of Congress, the 13th meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) was convened in Tokyo at the National Diet Library, on August 27. The attendees were welcomed by Masahiro Arao, Director of the National Diet Library, who also invited everyone to a tour of the Diet Library's new facilities during the luncheon break.

Hope Clement of the National Library of Canada, chair of the International MARC Network Advisory Committee, presented the report of the committee. She noted, in particular, a recommendation involving the merging of the Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) program and the International MARC program (IMP) into one entity (the UBC/IMP program), which was approved by the CDNL membership. She also presented two additional recommendations submitted by the committee, which were approved by the members: (1) that national bibliographic agencies agree to inform and consult one another before entering into MARC distribution arrangements with other types of organizations, such as bibliographic utilities, to redistribute MARC records in other countries; and (2) that in cases where a national bibliographic agency finds it advantageous to supply an organization other than a national library in another country with its records for redistribution, this arrangement not be made exclusive.

Reviewing recent preservation activities, Magda Strebl of the National Library of Austria reported on the "Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials," which was held earlier this year in Vienna at the National Library. Warren Horton of the National Library of Australia also reported on cooperative preservation efforts at the national level in Australia. It was agreed that preservation programs at the national level should receive more attention next year at the meeting in Brighton, with particular emphasis on the concept of preserving the national imprint for both developed and developing countries.

Adam Wysocki, chair of the IFLA Management Committee, addressed the importance of the six core programs of IFLA. He and the Unesco representatives noted with appreciation the contributions and support of national libraries throughout the world, both individually as well as collectively via CDNL, which continue to ensure the success of these programs.

A major agenda item for this session was a panel discussion on the role of CDNL for developing countries. With presentations by Stephney Ferguson, Jamaica; Hedwig Anuar, Singapore; and Don Wijasuriya, Malaysia, numerous relevant and stimulating issues were raised. While the broad topics of interest for libraries in developed and developing countries are basically the same—that is, conservation and preservation, adequate bibliographic control, etc.—the specific concerns within these broad areas of interest can be quite different for developed and developing

countries—such as interest in DEZ versus the need for acid-free boxes with regard to conservation. Being mindful of funding problems for developing countries as well as their need to focus on more immediate and practical problems, consideration should be given to the idea of regional conferences based on geographical areas, such as Oceania, Central/South America, etc. Developing countries need to maintain a presence in the international forum of CDNL, particularly with regard to any role CDNL might play in supporting the IFLA core program for the Advancement of Librarianship in Developing Countries. It was agreed that this last topic would also receive further attention at the 1987 meeting in England.

At the invitation of Kenneth Cooper, the 1987 meeting will be convened at the British Library.

—Mary S. Price

Division of General Research Libraries

Section of National Libraries

Open meetings of the section, held on August 26, were chaired by Maurice B. Line, British Library Document Supply Centre. The first meeting included the presentation of two papers on the aims, functions, and responsibilities of national libraries in developing countries. A paper prepared by Julio LeRiverend, Havana, Cuba, entitled "Functions and Objectives of the National Libraries in the Developing Countries" was read. Drawing upon specific examples of library roles and development in Cuba, Dr. LeRiverend wrote that national libraries should function within developing countries as a catalyst for library network development, as a focal point for the dissemination of information, and as an example in the provision of in-house training for library professionals. Based upon the strengths of their collections and the acquisition of materials through legal deposit, the national libraries should also serve as the source for national bibliographies and as the repository of a general library collection which can best serve evolving national needs.

Hu Sha, Deputy Director of the National Library of China, delivered a paper on the National Library of China in "present state and prospect." Mr. Sha explained that the National Library of China reflects much of the character of the modern Chinese nation, a reflection which mirrors both a desire to preserve and build upon China's vast cultural heritage, and support for current national policies which emphasize modernization and development. The National Library of China's collection, which is especially rich in ancient Chinese documents, represents a formidable preservation and conservation challenge. Other challenges this national library is addressing include increasing demands for individual borrowing privileges and services to the general public, a shortage of qualified professional librarians, the introduction of library automation, and a serious insufficiency of space. The scheduled completion in 1987 of a new library building will herald the introduction of a number of unique library facilities, including numerous subject-oriented reading rooms. Additionally, the procurement of a mainframe computer with multi-script capabilities has been initiated. The study and application of modern technologies is but one of the many responsibilities realized by the National Library of China as it plays a leading and pivotal role in the development of libraries and librarianship in China.

At the second open meeting, Franz Georg Kaltwasser, Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek, Federal Republic of Germany, gave a paper on the topic, "Dangers for the Modern Information Society in the Computer Age." Dr. Kaltwasser warned that modern technology, specifically the profusion of electronic data processing and the exponential wealth of data being produced, has fostered two problems: (1) "suffocation by overproduction of information," and (2) "withholding of information by new technologies." The wealth of knowledge available today is so great that man must develop the ability to differentiate and select relevant data from the vast amount of data offered. The use of computer databases requires the systematic management of a constantly growing mass of information, and an understanding of what information the computer may not deliver and why. Modern information technology creates new possibilities of manipulation, particularly in creating a possible monopoly of information. Dr. Kaltwasser concluded that "librarians as the classic transmitters of information" should be aware of developments in the field of information technology, should safeguard the freedom of information, and should make the public aware of dangers to this freedom.

Meetings of the section's Standing Committee were held August 24 and 28. Among the topics discussed were the ongoing work on Guidelines for National Libraries and other section projects, themes and plans for the section as outlined in IFLA's medium term program, nominations for new members of the committee, and the program for the next meeting. Topics suggested for discussion at the 1987 Brighton meeting included national libraries in changing times, national libraries' involvement in library and information research, and national libraries in Southern Europe. Additionally, N. S. Kartashov of the Lenin State Library in Moscow will present a progress report on a study of national library legislation.

At the invitation of Dr. Kartashov and the Lenin

State Library, an interim meeting of the Standing Committee, to be held in Moscow, was being planned for April 13–16, 1987. New subjects which were placed on the preliminary agenda for this meeting include a report on non-book-material matters and investigation of the creation of an "annual review of national libraries."

—William J. Welsh

Division of Special Libraries

Two meetings of the Special Libraries Division's Coordinating Board were held in Tokyo on August 24 and 28. As a result of a Professional Board request to prioritize all budget requests from sections for project funds, the Coordinating Board ranked nine projects in order for consideration. The chair, Joseph W. Price, Library of Congress, received the section reports and discussed specifics of the 1987 Brighton conference. The Coordinating Board also decided on two resolutions of the Art Section, and the Biological and Medical Sciences Section.

The division's reception at the Tokyo meeting, held at the International House of Japan, was hosted by the Japan Special Libraries Association. As with last year's reception, many people took advantage of this opportunity to meet both local special librarians—their Japanese colleagues—and non-division members. Many attendees informed the chair of their delight with their hosts' gracious hospitality.

A division program, planned by the chair for the Tokyo meeting, featured the presentation of papers by Ching-chih Chen of Simmons College of Masaya Takayama of Keio University. In her paper, entitled "PROJECT EMPEROR-I: China's Treasure Revealed via Videodisc Technology," Dr. Chen described PROJECT EMPEROR-I, which applies the latest in videodisk technology to presenting and interpreting a major historical/archaeological period of China's past. This unique project brings together the humanities and high-tech, and introduces a new educational and learning model through visual, audio, and textual information captured on videodisk, which is used interactively with a micro-based system with developed coursewares. In the second paper, "Special Libraries and Their Activities in Japan," Professor Takayama used several recent surveys, studies, and reports of special libraries in Japan to discuss the nature of user dissatisfaction with special libraries' service, and concluded that special libraries must not only improve the quality of information service they provide, but ultimately must offer what he called "intelligent services." In order to meet "the coming needs of a rapidly advancing situation," special libraries must offer their users not only information itself, but information analysis as well.

The division worked with other IFLA offices and local organizers to convene an IFLA pre-session seminar. The beautiful facilities of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology Library Center (KITLC) provided the setting for the first IFLA Pre-Session Seminar on Special Libraries. In addition to the 14 officially invited participants, mainly from Asian countries, eight observers from developing countries joined the seminar, whose theme was "Industrial and Scientific Information for Development—the Role of Special Libraries for National Development." The pre-session was composed of five sessions in which 22 papers were presented. Tours of KITLC and the Kanazawa City Public Library were also conducted. At the end of the pre-session, formal recommendations were prepared for presentation and review. The seminar attendees officially noted awareness of and concern for many issues and stressed, in particular, recognition of the importance of both networking and document delivery in the information transfer process. The need to optimize the use of available facilities and the immense potential of personal computers in combination with CD-ROM technology were recognized, as well as the importance of information exchange in multi-language materials and the importance of patent information. The seminar participants strongly recommended the following: that developing countries take appropriate measures to utilize scientific and technical information for national development purposes; that developing countries take steps to establish a patent information clearinghouse where one does not exist; that a presession seminar on the "Status of Librarians, Documentalists and Information Specialists" be organized by IFLA, preferably in a Third World country; and that IFLA take effective steps to formulate standards relating to the status issue and circulate those standards globally. Participants also issued the following recommendations: that Japanese colleagues develop a program of training for librarians from developing countries; that the Regional Section for Asia and Oceania compile a directory of centers of excellence willing to offer in-service training for regional librarians; that both IFLA and international funding agencies facilitate the availability of CD-ROM technology to developing countries; that a round table or subcommittee in IFLA on Chinese, Japanese, Korean (CJK) MARC be established; that the International Development Research Centre in Canada and Unesco attempt to make their special software package available for a wider variety of machines and expand them to incorporate integrated library management applications; and that IFLA prepare suitable guidelines for the development of special library services in developing countries.

Seminar attendees appealed to relevant bodies to decentralize databases and to offer a preferential rate to developing countries; they also appealed to publishers of secondary abstracting publications to consider ways of producing cheaper editions for developing countries. Finally, the participants resolved that developing countries should make a greater effort to index and control bibliographically their growing volume of scientific and technical literature and to appoint clearinghouses for such information.

—Joseph W. Price

Section of Geography and Map Libraries

During the conference week the IFLA Section of Geography and Map Libraries convened two open professional sessions, held two meetings of the Standing Committee, and visited the National Diet Library's Map Room.

Five speakers participated in the open professional sessions on August 26, which were attended by more than 60 conferees from 13 countries. In an interesting and informative paper, entitled "Generation and Utilization of Maps and Atlases in Japan," Takashi Morita, a researcher with the International Cartographic Information Center, presented an overview of map production and map use in Japan based on more than 500 questionnaires he had sent to map publishers and public and university libraries throughout the country. Map production, Dr. Morita found, is centered in the national government (Geographical Survey, Hydrographic Department, and Geological Survey Institute); local governmental offices concerned with urban planning, transportation, roads, water supply, environment, architecture and ports; and commercial publishing companies. Dr. Morita also noted that "digital maps made using a computer system have already been introduced into some cities and prefectures as a geographical information system or an information system used in planning." Concerning publishing companies, Dr. Morita's survey identified approximately 5,000 titles still in print, which included sheet maps (city maps, road maps), relief maps, globes, atlases, guide books, and other books using a great number of maps.

With regard to map collections, Dr. Morita's study revealed that "Japan has no independent special library for maps, but some institutions do have map rooms with good collections." There are also, he noted, "map corners in many public and university libraries." Among the largest map collections are the National Diet Library (240,000 maps, including 100,000 foreign maps), the Geological Survey Institute (100,000 maps), the Geographical Survey Institute (40,000 maps), the Hydrographic Department (40,000 maps), and the Department of Documentation at the Institute of Developing Economies (30,000 maps relating to underdeveloped countries). Dr. Morita concluded that as a result of his study, "it has now been clarified that reference information systems are lacking, not only concerning new materials, but also concerning the ones which already exist." In closing, he recommended the establishment of a national map cataloging system to serve as a comprehensive directory for currently published maps and called upon each library to create a list of maps in its collections.

The remaining four speakers discussed topics relating to the Standing Committee's theme for the section's professional program in Tokyo—"New Horizons of Map Librarianship Toward the 21st Century." Lorraine Dubreuil, map librarian, Map and Air Photo Library, McGill University, Canada, spoke on the subject "Map Libraries and Optical Disks." After a brief description of the technical aspects, storage capacities, and retrieval capabilities of optical videodisk, Ms. Dubreuil reviewed current research applications being conducted by the National Library of Canada and the Library of Congress. "There is no doubt that optical disk technology will play a major role in the preservation and access to library materials," she concluded, but "the limitations in the use of optical disks in map libraries will, as in all new technologies, be a matter of cost."

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, assistant chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, reported on cartographic optical disk at the Library of Congress and other Federal agencies. Although still in the planning stages, the Library of Congress cartographic optical disk pilot project will comprise 3,000 maps and atlas pages digitally stored on 12-inch optical disks. The maps will be scanned, stored, and printed in black-and-white, half-tone images at a resolution of 300 x 300 lines per inch. The searching and displaying of this map database will be through the Library's SCORPIO (Subject-Content-Oriented-Retriever-for-Processing-Information-On-line) retrieval system. Mr. Ehrenberg then went on to describe the Interagency Video Disc Prototype for Emergency Operations, which has been developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and the United States Coast Guard. Unlike the pilot project at the Library of Congress, this prototype involves analog videodisk, a system in which the maps were first photographed on 35mm motion picture color film and the film then transferred to videotape prior to transfer to videodisk. The Interagency Video Disc Prototype map database, consisting of 108,000 frames of maps and aerial photographs of the Gulf Coast of the United States, has been devised to

test and evaluate the application of video technology for interagency responses to regional emergencies such as hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters.

In a related talk, Gary North, associate chief of the National Mapping Division, United States Geological Survey, using slides to illustrate new developments, discussed videodisk advancements at other United States mapping agencies, particularly the United States Geological Survey. Mr. North reported that more than 30 United States government agencies are currently using or experimenting with videodisk technology for acquiring, editing, storing, managing, manipulating, and displaying cartographic data. He also reported on a new technique, called a frame grabber, that matches map edges electronically, thereby eliminating the need for overlapping images.

Sarah Tyacke, director of Special Collections, British Library, in a paper entitled "Digital Maps and Map Libraries," examined a number of issues facing British map libraries relating to the preservation of a retrospective archive of United Kingdom digital maps and remote sensing images. These included: (1) user requirements for series of national geographic/cartographic databases; (2) monitoring the production of available databases; (3) new forms of storage and information retrieval systems for archiving datafiles, such as compact disks; (4) legal deposit and copyright law regarding microforms, databases, and computer software; and (5) the organization of the archive at the national level and the necessity to set up a consultative body.

On August 27, members of the section visited the Map Room of the National Diet Library. Following brief remarks by Hisanori Shimoda, director, Special Materials Department, and Eishiro Muraki, chief, Special Collections Division, the functions and activities at the Map Room were described by Junko Suziku, unit head of the Map Room, and Tokichiro Tanaka, former unit head. The Map Room, established in 1961, holds 254,520 printed and manuscript map sheets and 9,948 volumes of census housing maps. Most maps date from the Meiji period and include official topographical, nautical, and geological maps; regional maps of Asia made before and during World War II; and basic map series representing some 120 foreign countries. The Map Room also holds some 200,000 aerial photographs. The visit concluded with a tour of the map stacks and the new wing of the National Diet Library where a special exhibit of manuscript and printed maps of the Edo period (1603–1868) were on display.

The section's Standing Committee met twice during the conference. On August 24 it was announced that the second edition of the *World Directory of Map Collections*, compiled by section members and edited by John A. Wolter, Ronald E. Grim, and David K. Carrington, has been published and is available as an IFLA publication. A section brochure, prepared by Gary North, is also available, in English, with a German-language version in preparation. On August 27, the section discussed and agreed to the following medium-term projects: (1) IFLA/ICA working group on cartographic documentation; (2) manual on equipment and space management; (3) manual of practical map curatorship; (4) working group on microcartography, and (5) preparation of a handbook of examples as a guide to International Standard Bibliographic Description/Cartographic Materials (ISBD/CM). The organization of workshops in developing countries was also considered to be very important. The Standing Committee adopted the following theme for the 1987 meeting in Brighton, "Map Information for an Evolving World." It was agreed that a special all-day program on August 19, 1987, would be devoted to geographic and cartographic information systems.

—Ralph E. Ehrenberg

(To be Continued)

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Monday, May 4

☐ Lecture by Robert Penn Warren, Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5

☐ "Protection of Management Rights in the Bargaining Process and the Issue of Negotiability," Raymond McKay, U.S. Marine Corps. Mumford Room, 10:30 a.m. **For staff supervisors and managers.**

☐ "Cooperative Collections Analysis: By-Products of MARC Records," Peter Ward, president, Ward Associates. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

Friday, May 8

☐ Festival of American Chamber Music. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12

☐ "African Camera Studies," Julian W. Witherell, chief, African and Middle Eastern Division. LC Professional Association. Room LM 403, 11:30 a.m. **For members and staff.**

Thursday, May 14

☐ "The American Solution: The Origins of the United States Constitution," bicentennial exhibition opens. Great Hall, Jefferson Building.

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